



DAKAR DECLARATION

11TH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (COMIAC)

We, the Ministers of Information and Culture of the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) participating in the 11th session of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) held in Dakar, Republic of Senegal on 13-15, 2018;

Reaffirming our commitment to the objectives of the OIC and our support for its initiatives, particularly in the fields of Information and Culture, in a spirit of fraternal cooperation among Member States;

Bearing in mind the complexity and multiplicity of challenges and threats faced by the Islamic *Ummah* in a constantly-changing world;

Conscious of the opportunity offered to us, as Ministers in charge of information and culture, by this 11th COMIAC session to discuss the theme: "*Education and Culture as vectors of peace, development and rapprochement of peoples*";

Reiterating the OIC's unwavering support for the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif;

Noting with grave concern the crises that are shaking Member States such as Mali, Libya, Syria and Yemen;

Noting with consternation the persecution of the Rohingya and other Muslim minorities;

Noting with great concern the terrorist acts perpetrated in the Sahel;

Considering the clear determination to spread false information about Islam through regular campaigns that have been conducted for years, including via social networks, by some political parties, politicians, opinion leaders, media outlets and people who also aim to stigmatize Muslim men and women;

Considering the paramount role of the media, including the Internet, in disseminating the ideals of peace, solidarity and tolerance advocated by the precepts of Islam and the OIC Charter, as well as in deconstructing certain deliberately nurtured prejudices;

Reaffirming the importance and necessity of sharing with the International Community, through all appropriate means, the universal message of Islam; the religion of peace, solidarity and tolerance;

Convinced of the importance and need to promote dialogue and an alliance of civilisations;

Considering the growing importance of Culture and Sports in the socio-economic development of States;

Considering the need to strengthen cooperation between universities of occupied Palestine and those of OIC Member States;

Reaffirming the need to protect Islamic sanctuaries, culture and heritage;

Considering the need to implement the OIC's cultural strategy and its 2016-2025 ten-year programme of action;

Considering the vital role of OIC subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions;

Considering the importance of cooperation among OIC Member States in the cultural sphere and the need to support film production;

Considering the importance of statistical data in the implementation of OIC Members States' cultural policies;

Taking into account the decisions of the Dakar session;

Congratulate His Excellency Mr. Macky SALL, President of the Republic of Senegal, and Chairman of COMIAC, for his commitment and leadership, and **fully appreciate** the initiatives taken within the framework of his mandate, in particular the revitalization of this important OIC Standing Committee and his interest in the institution of the international Prize for the Media and Journalists to combat Islamophobia, as well as the Festival of Islamic arts.

Congratulate the Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), His Excellency Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen, for the remarkable efforts made in the fields of Culture and Information.

Call for the strict observance of the relevant UN resolutions on Palestine, in particular the resolution on the status of Al-Qods Al Sharif.

Decide to institute the international Prize for the Media and Journalists to combat Islamophobia.

Request the President of the Republic of Senegal to urge his OIC counterparts to find the resources necessary for the regular funding of the Prize to ensure its perpetuation.

Condemn firmly the terrorist attacks against populations, monuments and historical and cultural sites.

Condemn the ethnic, religious and islamophobic persecution perpetrated against Muslim minorities throughout the world, in particular the Rohingyas.

Express our unwavering support to peoples victims of violence and persecution.

Encourage Member States to promote the culture of peace and step up the fight against ignorance and unemployment, which represent the breeding grounds for terrorism and violent extremism, by adopting and consolidating policies on education for peace, citizenship and religious tolerance.

Urge Member States to promote quality training among the youth and women in order to promote their employability.

Encourage Member States to make Culture a key driving force for economic development and employment promotion for the youth, in particular women.

Encourage efforts to improve the movement of goods and the mobility of cultural actors between OIC Member States.

Urge OIC Member States to produce cultural statistics, in view of their importance in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of cultural policies.

Encourage Member States to strengthen their co-operation within the framework of the organization of meetings for cultural exchanges and cinematographic production.

Reiterate the importance of setting up the OIC satellite channel to share and broadcast useful programmes within the Islamic Ummah and to propagate the true values of Islam.

Affirm the OCI's commitment to support Member States in the implementation of their sports policies for the development of the Muslim youth;

Express the hope for the diligent implementation of resolutions of this 11th COMIAC session.

With the blessing of Allah the Almighty, the Compassionate

Done in Dakar, 15 May 2018